decided to undertake legislation to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, *inter-alia* to apply the Sugar Development Fund for making loans to any sugar factory or any unit there of for bagasse-based co-generation power projects with a view to improving their viability.

(b) and (c) The details about fixation of the criteria, the minimum & maximum amount for funding each unit etc. have not yet been worked out.

Indian stand on Sri Lankan peace process

1973. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have welcomed Sri Lanka Government's ceasefire with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and assured Sri Lanka that India would play its role in the peace process;

(b) if so, whether it is for the first time that India has taken keen interest in solving the problem of Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, what sort of help has been assured to Sri Lanka in settling this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Government have welcomed the ceasefire agreement and stated that it would provide an opportunity to both sides to move forward towards a substantive dialogue for a negotiated political settlement of the ethnic conflict in a manner which would meet the aspirations of all sections of Sri Lankan society and restore lasting peace in that country.

India has reiterated its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and once again assured the people and Government of Sri Lanka, India's consistent support to the peace process and to cooperating fully towards Sri Lanka's economic development and progress.

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Government of India has consistently supported a peaceful, political settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty in a manner that meet the aspirations of all elements in Sri lankan society.

All party team to Bangladesh

1974. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an all Party team is likely to visit Bangladesh to get a first hand account of the alleged atrocities being committed on the Hindus as reported in the 'Hindu' dated December 6, 2001; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) A parliamentary delegation may visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Discussion on Border Dispute with Chinese Premier

1975. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to India efforts were made to get clarified the position with regard to 4056 kms. Sino-Indian border disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the reaction thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. We signed an agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility